



Minority Health Month Report

Affordable Care Act: There's Something In It For YOU!

April 2013

In recognition of Minority Health Month, the Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section (HDRMHS) conducted a series of statewide information sessions entitled, *Affordable Care Act: There's Something In It For YOU!* The goal was to assure that minority communities are fully informed on the Affordable Care Act. This initiative reflected the 2013 National Minority Health Month theme, *"Advancing Health Equity Now: Uniting Our Communities to Bring Health Care Coverage to All"*.

The HDRMHS 2013 Minority Health Month activities were conducted in partnership with the Michigan Minority Health Coalition. Activities included an Affordable Care Act train-the-trainer session. Twenty-three individuals from community-based organizations, policy organizations, local health departments and medical care organizations participated in the training. The training provided up-to-date information on Michigan policy related to Medicaid expansion, the status of the insurance exchange, and how the ACA will impact racial and ethnic populations in Michigan. Sessions also provided information on pertinent changes to the law that resulted from the recent Supreme Court decision.

HDRMHS and the Michigan Minority Health Coalition also collaborated with 18 community- and faith-based organizations, minority serving agencies, Tribal agencies, health care organizations, and others throughout the state to host the ACA informational sessions. Nineteen (19) informational sessions, including one session conducted entirely in Spanish, were conducted. A total of 627 persons attended the sessions representing the racial and ethnic minority populations served by HDRMHS: African American, American Indian/Native American, Arab/Chaldean American, Asian American and Hispanic/Latino. Sessions were held in Ann Arbor, Benton Harbor, Cassopolis, Dearborn, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Gun Lake (Shelbyville), Hart, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon Heights, Saginaw, Westland and Ypsilanti.

There's Something In It For YOU! informational sessions were well received. Speakers answered a number of questions and participants were very engaged. Several events received media coverage. Although this initiative lasted only one month, the success of this initiative is still reverberating around the state. This Michigan Minority Health Month initiative serves as a model for state level public health, statewide minority serving agencies, and local communities to outreach and provide critical health information to communities most in need of affordable and accessible health care.

